

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 00257 181411Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00
AGRE-00 /067 W

-----181417Z 109237 /40

R 180740Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6541

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0257

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINT MP
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - MARCH 18 (SUMMARY)

REF: PORT LOUIS 234

1. THE APRIL 24 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WILL BE A TWO-SIDED CONTEST BETWEEN THE MARXIST MMM PARTY, WHICH IS CONTESTING ALL 126 SEATS, AND A COALITION OF THE LABOR PARTY, THE MAURITIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PMSD) AND THE MUSLIM COMMITTEE OF ACTION. THE COALITION HAS DIVIDED UP THE 19 WARDS, WITH THE COALITION PARTNER CONSIDERED THE STRONGEST IN EACH WARD FACING THE MMM ALONE FOR ALL SEATS. LABOR IS RELYING ON ENTIRELY NEW AND UNTESTED CANDIDATES, WHILE THE MMM IS RUNNING MOST OF THE PARTY LEADERSHIP AND MANY IF ITS ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES ELECTED IN DECEMBER. GAETAN DUVAL, WHO REMAINS LEADER OF THE PMSD, IS TRYING TO MAKE A COMEBACK BY RUNNING FOR THE CUREPIPE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. THESE ELECTIONS WILL PROVIDE A TEST OF HOW WELL THE GOVERNING COALITION CAN DO AGAINST THE MMM IN THE URBAN AREAS.

2. AGRICULTURE MINISTER BOOLELL, A LEADING LABOR PARTY FIGURES, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW THAT HIS PARTY MUST MOVE LEFT, AS THE PEOPLE HAVE SHOWN THEY WANT CHANGE. BUT HE ALSO INSISTED THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WILL LAST FOR FIVE YEARS. MMM LEADER BERENGER HAD TO
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DENY SOME STATEMENTS HE MADE IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A REUNION PAPER TO THE EFFECT THAT A COALITION WITH LABOR WAS POSSIBLE FOR THE MMM, THAT SOME OF THE "RIGHT" IN MAURITIUS IS "INTELLIGENT" (MEANING PRO-MMM), AND THAT RELATIONS CAN'T BE BROKEN WITH SOUTH AFRICA. BERENGER DELIVERED A FORCEFUL AND SEVERE CRITIQUE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES (OR LACK OF SAME) IN THE ASSEMBLY ON MARCH 15. HE PREDICTED A DEEPENING CRISIS THAT COULD

LEAD TO DEVALUATION OF THE RUPEE. THE PRESS HAS SEVERELY CRITICIZED THE ACTION OF SOME MMM SUPPORTERS WHO DISPLAYED A MMM BANNER WHILE THE MAURITIAN FLAG WAS BEING RAISED AT THE INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. CRITICISM WAS SO STRONG THAT THE MMM LEADERSHIP HAD TO DENOUNCE THE ACTION AND SEND A LETTER OF REASSURANCE TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL THAT THE MMM RESPECTS THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE AND ITS FLAG.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTL00257
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770093-0591
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From: PORT LOUIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PORT LOUIS 234
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3066010
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW - MARCH 18 (SUMMARY)
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dd00eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009